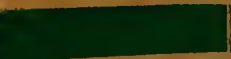


Finger Reading

By Edward E. Allen

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friends and home and loved ones to share with their fellow men the Life Abundant. In all parts of the globe schools are being opened, hospitals erected and the glad tidings of the Son of God spread among the sons of men. Jesus Christ is capturing the imagination of the people of the East as never before. Like the Greeks of New Testament times, the people of Africa and India and the Isles of the Seas are saying, "Sir, we would see Jesus." Modern missionaries like Dr. Stanley Jones are not presenting a doctrine but rather a personality. Under their capable leadership many are coming to know him whom to know is life eternal.

Fifthly. The prayer of Our Lord that his children might all be one is being answered. The churches are getting together. The folly of separation is being increasingly recognized. The day of competition has gone and the day of co-operation is here. Conferences on unity are being held in many parts of our country. It is my firm conviction that the future, so far as the various communions getting together is concerned, is full of hope.

SIGNS OF PROGRESS

For instance, twenty-five years ago Lanes would have been an impossibility. On all sides denominational barriers are being broken down and old fences removed. None of us expect unity among the churches to be an accomplished fact tomorrow or the next day; but it is on its way for the spirit of solidarity is daily being strengthened. The exchanging of pulpits is an ordinary affair nowadays, since party tags are being shorn of their trimmings, and more and more the clergy, as well as the laity, are becoming one in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I do not say that all is right with the churches. I am aware that there are still many things in need of correction and I am not opposed to criticism when it is of a constructive nature. On the other hand, it seems to me that we have heard altogether too much about what ails the churches and not nearly enough about the magnificent work they are doing in a thousand and one directions to bring to this world the Kingdom of God.

I believe in the churches and have faith in

their leaders. I am full of hope concerning their future, and for that reason I thank God and take courage!

Lead on, O King Eternal,
The day of march has come;
Henceforth in fields of conquest
Thy tents shall be our home:
Through days of preparation
Thy grace has made us strong;
And now, O King Eternal,
We lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King Eternal,
We follow not with fears;
For gladness breaks like morning
Where'er thy face appears;
The Cross is lifted o'er us:
We journey in its light;
The crown awaits the conquest
Lead on, O King of Light.

Let me but do my work from day to day,
In field or forest, at the desk or loom,
In roaring market-place or tranquil room,
Let me but find it in my heart to say,
When vagrant wishes beckon me astray,
"This is my work; my blessing, not my doom;
Of all who live, I am the one by whom
This work can best be done in the right way."

—Henry van Dyke.

FINGER READING

By Edward E. Allen

Director of Perkins Institution for the Blind

THE saying, "A shelf of good books is a spiritual insurance policy," applies with special force to those who, if they read at all, must do so through their fingers. Most of these who would fain forget themselves, for example, in travel must take passage on the magic carpet of books. This they can do in a rocking chair or a bed. There is no other single diversion resorted to by so many.

The number and variety of the big embossed books are limited, of course; but there are more of both than is commonly supposed. For instance, in the regional library for New England, which is at Watertown, Mass., there are now some 22,000 volumes under 3,286 different titles, fiction and non-fiction about equally divided. Of the fiction most is standard and much contemporary, some 46 stories of the latter having been supplied by the Federal government especially for its war-blinded. Of the former, such works as Dumas' *The Three Musketeers* are extremely popular, even though expanded as this is in ten volumes. Of the non-fiction there are all sorts—history, essays, religion, and, of course, the Bible. The Catholic Church has provided much special literature. There are also juveniles and abundant school and some college textbooks. From the Hove Memorial Press has issued ample material prepared for beginners in finger reading.

Most of all these books are embossed in

I like to read.

Braille.

I l i k e t o r e a d .

Moon.

I l i k e t o r e a d .

Graphic illustration of "I like to read" in Braille dots and in Moon type—actual sizes. Embossed print is white.

books. A boy wraps them, a truck conveys a load of them to the post office three times a week, and Uncle Sam does the rest. He carries them to the readers and brings them back again; and he does this free and has done so since 1903.

The library sends out printed book lists on request. New accessions are announced in *The Weekly News* which is a Boston publication, and in the *Matilda Ziegler Magazine*, a New York monthly also in Braille, both of which are sent free to readers; and the country-wide circulation of the latter is said by its editor to be about 15,000. There is also a monthly in Moon's type. The state "home teachers" and the Perkins "home visitor" make it their business to promote home reading. And the librarian does the same by telephone and by mail.

The circulation last year was 19,247; the different readers, including 265 at school, numbered \$91. But the federal census of 1920 gives the blind population of New England as 4,699. Why is it that only one fifth of these people draw books from the library devoted expressly to the service of them all? All seeing people are not book readers. Probably even a smaller percentage of the blind read or care to. What a pity! They do not know what they miss. There is no other diversion open to them equal to reading.

To be sure most blind people are old. No doubt many believe that they are too old to learn finger reading. Not a bit of it. "They can who think they can." The trouble often is that their families have little faith in them, which discourages even a trial. The home teachers tell of many instances of their blind pupils fifty—sixty—seventy—yes, a few even ninety years old learning to read with the finger. We knew a clergyman going blind in his eighties who, finding that his Bible was still open for him to read, began, as he said, to live again. The sun had dispelled the cloud. There is no question that those who lived with him benefited almost as much as he did.

Will not anyone who reads this letter tell his blind friends about it? And will any and all newspapers in New England please copy? The message is one of good tidings to such as sit in darkness.

THE CHURCH AND HER GREAT COMMISSION

By Horace F. Holton, D.D.

Pastor of Porter Church, Brockton, Massachusetts

THERE seems to be a doubt in the minds of many church people as to whether there is any longer need for the Church to heed the last injunction of Jesus, which was to preach the gospel to all nations. In these days we are told that the propagation of the gospel is no longer needed, and that it is an impertinence for us to force our religion on those who do not want it. If there is such a feeling, and no one can be familiar with our present situation, and doubt the fact, the Church should face the criticism and govern herself accordingly. She should either delete the great commission from her program, or so reinterpret it that she can give to the command of our Lord her enthusiastic and sacrificial loyalty. This I take it is the major question that faces the Churches of Christ at the present time.

In the first place, there is the historic and present fact that the Churches which have ceased to obey the great commission, and which have taken the course that our critics would seem to have us take, have stagnated and, finally, passed from any place of real influence in the world. This is not an accident, but in accord with a well-known law of life. A law which Jesus put into words when he said, "He that would save his life shall lose it, and he that would lose his life shall find it." Like individual, like Church. The Church which is concerned only with itself and in keeping its own wheels in motion is on the road to extinction. The Church which has no outreach will not long have any up-reach. So, if the Church must repudiate the great commission, it is thereby doomed to extinction. This is an inexorable fact.

However, it is not necessary to doom the Church to extinction. What is necessary is that the idea that many people have in regard to Jesus' command to go into all the world and preach the gospel should be re-interpreted. We need to correct the impression that the Church is trying to foist an unwelcome religion on a resisting world. We need to repudiate the charge that we are out to help exploit the nations of the world under the guise of preaching the gospel. We need to insist again that the great commission is a call to go out and tell the Good News, to show men and women the Jesus way of life, and to demonstrate that way before them. Read the story of modern missions, restudy the biographies of the great missionary heroes like Livingstone and Mackay, like Paton and Hamlin, like Smith of China, and Hume of India, and see if they were unwelcome meddlers among the peoples for whom they laid down their lives.

Read of the high honors that have been heaped upon them as the friendly counselors of the nations, and then realize how base are the slanderous charges that they have been unwelcome meddlers. Get acquainted with present-day missionaries, and learn what they are actually doing, and you will

have to lock your minds willfully in order still to believe what certain people are saying about the cause of missions. Furthermore, before we too quickly accept the dictum of the critics, let us be sure to get up to date in regard to the missionary movement, and understand the profound change which has come over the whole program—a change which is reflected in Dr. Jones' book, *The Christ of the Indian Road*.

With these facts in mind, and these difficulties removed, we are prepared to come back to the realization that in the last analysis, obedience to the great commission is a matter of personal loyalty to Jesus Christ, and all for which he stands in the world. It is the communicating of a great discovery, the sharing of a renovating experience, the expression of a love and loyalty which no Church or individual can fail to give and still remain Christian. No Church or individual can have this experience and not become possessed with a passionate and joyful purpose to have it shared with the whole world.

Parables of Safed the Sage

A Parable of the Cost of the Overhead

I rode the Sunset Limited, and I entered the Dining Car and sat down. And the waiter put on a Clean Table Cloth, and Knives and Forks and Spoons, and a Glass wherein he placed a Lump of Ice and poured in some Water, and gave me a Clean Napkin and a Bill of Fare.

And I spake unto the Steward and I said, How much have I cost this Dining Car thus far?

And he said, Thou hast cost us Seventy-three pence.

And I said, Ten years ago it was Fifty-eight pence.

And he said, Things have risen since then. The cost of building this Car, and providing it with Ranges and Dishwashers and Pots and Pans and Dishes, and the cost of taking it over the Road, and the Interest and the Depreciation and the Wages of the Cooks and the Waiters and of Me, and the Spring Water and the Ice and the bowl, and the Electric Light and the Linen and the Laundry and the rest cost this Railroad Seventy-three pence for each Passenger who doth enter this Car before we feed him any Food at all.

And I inquired, saying, How much dost thou expect to get from me for this meal?

And he said, Our meals bring us in an average of Ninety-four pence.

And I said, Then thou hast twenty-one pence left to pay for the Food and the Profit.

And he said, Profit is a word whose meaning is unknown in this business: say rather we have twenty-one pence to pay for the Food and the Waste.

And I said, It must be an Interesting Problem how to spread the Overhead of Seventy-three pence over a meal check of Twenty-one pence and to guess how it is so to be done as to effect the Painless Extraction of the Fixed Charge.

And he said, To him who shall teach us how to turn that Trick shall be a Reward.

And thereupon did I order My Meal, and if they got what I ate for the price that was left after the Seventy-three pence was deducted, they be welcome to the Profit. And I spent more than Nine-four pence.

Then did I consider how many things there be in life where the Overhead is large in proportion to the Net Cost; but when one cometh to understand he wondereth that the cost is not more.

And I have heard men thank God that Salvation is Free. But in Heaven and in History it hath cost Life and Sacrifice, and it cometh unto us with an High Overhead.

The Logic of Law Breaking

There was an interesting and effective bit of satire in a letter to the Boston *Herald* recently, from S. L. Herrick of Brockton, Mass. It is worth quoting and circulating. Mr. Herrick wrote as follows:

"Having given conspicuous position and much space in the *Herald* of December 26 to the report of the Moderation League, you will doubtless, in fairness, accord equal prominence to the following recommendations of the Murderation League (not yet) Incorporated.

"The laws against murder and theft are shown, by a national survey of conditions, to have failed utterly to do what they were intended to do and, furthermore, as a result these crimes among boys and girls are increasing. It is well known that there have been in recent years horrible murders committed by very young men. In Boston, recently, daily papers have given much space to the arrest of members of a gang of young thieves. These crimes are, of course, due to the laws against murder and theft.

"We cannot escape the conclusion that these laws have failed utterly to promote 'regard for the lives and property of all.' 'Conditions have become worse each year, and the younger generation' is murdering and stealing 'as never before.'

"We are of the firm conviction that the removal from the national and state statutes of the present restrictions upon the crimes of murder and theft 'would check disregard for law'; and if in addition a moderate license fee, putting the said crimes under government direction, were required, this 'would produce a handsome national revenue.'"

In making these suggestions the Murderation League is actuated solely by consideration for the morals of the younger generation—not at all by desire on the part of its members to commit the crimes now prohibited.

The longer I live, the more deeply I am convinced that that which makes the difference between one man and another—between the weak and the powerful, the great and the insignificant—is energy, invincible determination, a purpose once formed and then death or victory.—*Powell Burton*.

